

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION CPR-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 INR-07

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P R 251626Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 863

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

S E C R E T LAGOS 8248

C O R R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMIT CAP PER S/S MR ORTIZ (AGREEMENT
CHANNEL))

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, US, NI

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT FOR EDWARD OLUSOLA SANU
AS AMBASSADOR TO UNITED STATES

REF : (A) LAGOS A-130, JUNE 7, 1973

(B) ADDIS ABABA 1692, APRIL 18, 1972

SUMMARY: MG HAS REQUESTED AGREEMENT APPOINTMENT EDWARD OLUSOLA SANU AS

AMBASSADOR TO UNITED STATES TO REPLACE JOHN M. GARBA. SANU
CURRENTLY SERVING AS AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND EUROPEAN ECONOMIC
COMMUNITY (EEC). EMBASSY RECOMMENDS GRANTING EARLY AGREEMENT
TO APPOINTMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN DIPLOMATIC NOTE DATED AUGUST 20 AND RECEIVED AUGUST 25,
1975, FMG HAS REQUESTED AGREEMENT FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF EDWARD
OLUSOLA SANU, A TRAINED ECONOMIST PRESENTLY SERVING AS NIGERIAN
AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM, TO SUCCEED AMBASSADOR JOHN
M. GARBA IN WASHINGTON. FMG REQUESTED AGREEMENT QTE AS SOON AS

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POSSIBLE UNQTE SO THAT SANU MAY ASSUME DUTIES IN WASHINGTON

QTE AT AN EARLY DATE UNQTE.

2. SANU WAS BORN MARCH 24, 1930, IN OFFA, KWARA STATE. HE IS A GRADUATE OF BOTH HOWARD UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON (B.A. ECONOMICS 1953) AND HARVARD UNIVERSITY (M.A. ECONOMICS AND M.A. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION). HE WAS LITTAUER FELLOW AT HARVARD.

3. SANU JOINED THE NIGERIAN FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1958 AND WAS ASSIGNED FIRST SECRETARY, NIGERIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON 1960-61. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO LAGOS, HE SERVED AS HEAD OF ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT AND LATER HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1964 TO BECOME COUNSELOR OF THE NIGERIAN MISSION TO THE UN, HE SERVED AS MEMBER OF UN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGETARY MATTERS. THE FOLLOWING YEAR HE BECAME DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, LAGOS. AFTER THE FIRST COUP OF 1966 HE SERVED AS PERMANENT UNDERSECRETARY, CABINET OFFICE, UNTIL NAMED AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA IN 1968. HE WAS APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC) IN 1973. WHILE AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA, MR. SANU BECAME A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA) AND AT THE 26TH UNGA, WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE FIFTH (FINANCE) COMMITTEE. SANU WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE AFRICAN GROUP WHICH NEGOTIATED WITH EEC IN 1973.

4. MR. SANU IS MARRIED AND A FATHER. HE IS A PROTESTANT. THE AMBASSADOR IS A SERIOUS STUDENT OF AMERICAN LITERATURE AND IS DESCRIBED AS A HIGHLY COMPETENT PROFESSIONAL. IN ADDIS ABABA HE WAS CONSIDERED A SOUND-THINKING, MILD SKEPTIC AND USEFUL COLLEAGUE BY THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY.

5. SHORTLY AFTER THE FIRST COUP IN 1966, SANU ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES AND AMERICANS OF BEING ARROGANT AND IGNORING NIGERIA. HE CHARGED BOTH AMERICANS AND BRITISH OFFICIALS OF ABUSING THEIR POSITIONS BY CALLING ON PRIME MINISTER BALEWA TOO OFTEN. HOWEVER, DURING HIS TOUR IN ADDIS ABABA HE WAS CONSIDERED TO BE WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AND MAINTAINED CLOSE AND FRIENDLY CONTACT WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS.

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6. EMBASSY HAS NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDS EARLY AGREEMENT BE GRANTED. PRESENT FMG LEADERSHIP IS BUSINESSLIKE, ACTION-ORIENTED GROUP, AND QUICK RESPONSE SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO FAVORABLE INITIAL IMPRESSION WE BELIEVE IT VERY MUCH IN U.S. INTEREST TO CREATE.
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